

PORTLAND, OREGON  
OREGON JOURNAL

E. 351,364

OCT 9 1968

# Congress Defaults War Powers, Says Morse

By EDWARD J. MOWERY  
Journal National News  
Service

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan groundswell of dissatisfaction — a feeling of being frozen out of White House decisions relating to the Viet Nam war — is sweeping through Congress.

It's a feeling of uneasiness rather than direct criticism of President Johnson's actions. But many lawmakers believe the burgeoning Viet Nam war is a one-man show with congressional participation limited largely to occasional White House briefings of key leaders. Many view the Viet Nam

situation in terms of a gradual erosion of congressional powers to declare war, paralleling the unilateral action of former President Harry Truman, who termed the costly, bloody Korean War a "police action," fought by U.S. troops under the United Nations flag.

White House action, other critics recall, led to actual mobilization in the Cuba crisis in the face of an A-war threat by the Soviet Union.

None disputes the gravity of the Viet Nam situation which could ignite all South-east Asia. During the week

ending Sept. 26, U.S. planes dropped 1,260 tons of bombs in 638 sorties against the Viet Cong; military deaths passed the 1,000 mark.

By year's end, more than 150,000 Americans will be fighting in Viet Nam, plus elements of the Seventh Fleet and B52 bomber crews based on Guam. This is war! Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., declared:

"CONGRESS has never, since the end of World War II, re-established the controls over war and peace that the Constitution gave it. This condition is largely the fault of Congress itself, because it has created institutions . . . and provided them with money without maintaining controls over their policies and programs."

Citing the autonomy given the CIA and AID operations, he said:

"Both spend hundreds of millions abroad each year; both employ thousands. Both make foreign policy and expect Congress to finance it with no questions

asked. To its discredit, Congress has done so.

"We have felt ourselves incompetent to ask the question. We lack the staff to oversee the work of these thousands of people, and we have failed to demand that Congress be informed of their activities and operations."

"THE WAR in Viet Nam," he observed, "is the direct result of decisions and policies made 10 years ago by the Central Intelligence Agency and the AID agency. Ten years later, 125,000 troops and the Strategic Air Command have been sent to bail them out of their mistaken decisions and policies, and we do not know yet how it can be accomplished.

"Yet, we are doing it on the equally false assumption that once committed by these unknown persons, operating largely in secret, the entire country must fall in behind them."

HITTING directly at "excessive" White House war powers, Morse said:

"Our foreign policy, our foreign spending, and the sending of U.S. forces overseas will continue so long as Congress fails to exercise the standards for expenditure of public money that it is supposed to exercise.

"Executives will always make use of any powers given them, and will seek to perpetuate those powers, and indeed, will decry any restrictions upon them as damaging to international operations.

"But such persons function above and beyond the rule of law. Only Congress can re-establish the rule of law in American international affairs."